

**$\beta$ -CYCLODEXTRIN COMPOSITIONS, AND USE TO PREVENT  
TRANSMISSION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

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Methods of reducing the risk of transmission of a sexually transmitted  
pathogen by contacting the pathogen or cells susceptible to infection by the pathogen  
with a  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin are provided. Methods for reducing the risk of transmission of  
a sexually transmitted pathogen to or from a subject by contacting the pathogen or  
10 cells susceptible to the pathogen in the subject with a pharmaceutical composition  
containing a  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin also are provided. Accordingly, pharmaceutical  
compositions, which include 1) a  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin, which is in an amount that blocks  
passage of the pathogen through lipid rafts in the membrane of a cell susceptible to  
the pathogen, and 2) a contraceptive, an agent for treating a sexually transmitted  
15 disease, a lubricant, or a combination thereof, are provided, as are composition  
formulated from a solid substrate that contains an amount of  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin useful for  
reducing the risk of transmission of a sexually transmitted pathogen.